



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Jewel Cave
National Monument

11149 US Hwy 16
Building B12
Custer, SD 57730
605-673-8300 phone
605-673-8397 fax

Jewel Cave National Monument News Release

Release Date: **January 3, 2014**

For Immediate Release

Contact: **Bradley Block / Chief of Interpretation / bradley_block@nps.gov**

Jewel Cave Schedules Winter Season Wild Caving Tours

Custer, SD - Jewel Cave National Monument is offering Wild Caving Tours during the 2014 winter season. The dates for the trips include the following: January 17, February 21, and March 21. Wild Caving Tours are limited to five participants on each trip. Reservations are required and can be made up to 28 days in advance of the listed dates; however, the reservation deadline for each date is the Wednesday prior to the scheduled tour.

Wild Caving Tours offer a three to four-hour trek that takes participants off-trail within Jewel Cave. The tour is strenuous, and all cavers are required to fit through an eight and one-half inch by 24 inch opening. Participants must be eighteen years of age or older; however, young adults sixteen or seventeen are allowed on the tour with parental approval. The tour begins at 11:30 a.m. and concludes around 4:00 p.m.

Acting Superintendent Bradley Block states, "Jewel Cave is one of the longest caves in the world, yet it is still being discovered and explored. It truly is an excellent example of a global frontier." Block further comments, "Wild caving tours are an exciting way for visitors to experience the thrill of trekking through a frontier landscape for the first time. Although a public tour, the sense of excitement to see something strange gradually become familiar is an awesome experience for many guests. We hope some of our local outdoor enthusiasts will take advantage of these tour opportunities."

Jewel Cave National Monument also offers two Scenic Tours Wednesday through Friday, occurring at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Scenic Tours are one hour and 20 minutes in length and take participants on a one-half mile guided hike through the cave. Discovery Tours take place Wednesday through Friday at 9:05 a.m. 12:45 p.m. and 3:45 p.m. and consist of a 20-minute educational presentation inside one large room of the cave. Guided cave tours are not available on Mondays or Tuesdays; however, the Visitor Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. (MST).

For Wild Caving Tour reservations and other tour information related to times and ticket fees, contact the visitor center at (605) 673-8300 and select Option 1. Jewel Cave National Monument can also be visited online at www.nps.gov/jeca. The Visitor Center is currently closed on weekends and Federal holidays through early to mid-March 2014.

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 401 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.